



Afternoon Alert - Monday, July 23, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and all commercial networks led with reports on the severe heat wave in Japan. All of the networks reported on a joint communique issued by the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors after their two-day meeting in Buenos Aires. TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi also reported on Finance Minister Aso's meeting with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin on Sunday on the sidelines of the G20 meeting.

ECONOMY

Aso conveys to Secretary Mnuchin Japan's concern over higher U.S. tariffs

TBS and TV Asahi said Finance Minister Aso told reporters on Sunday that he conveyed to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin at their bilateral talks held on the sidelines of the meeting of G20 finance leaders in Buenos Aires Japan's position on the United States' steel and aluminum tariffs and national security investigation into auto imports. Fuji TV added that Aso reportedly asked that Washington not increase tariffs on auto imports. The broadcaster quoted Secretary Mnuchin as telling the press that President Trump is committed to free and fair and more balanced trade. NHK quoted the Secretary as reportedly saying the United States wants free and fair trade.

- [G-20 finance chiefs warn of increased threat from trade tensions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan opposes potential U.S. auto tariffs, Aso tells Mnuchin](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan hopes to avoid potential U.S. automobile tariffs: Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Seko stresses Japanese firms' contributions to U.S. economy over import limits on Japanese cars](#) (Sankei)
- [U.S. trade war boosting "special demand for steel"](#) (Nikkei)
- [Casino law won't offer Japan an instant jackpot](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Avoid hasty development of casinos; establish appropriate safeguards](#) (The Japan News)
- [Corporate Japan outspends EU companies on overseas M&As](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan leads China in overseas startup funding](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

The state of "rule of law" in China

Sunday's "NHK Special" highlighted the oppression of human rights lawyers in China, saying that although President Xi Jinping stresses the importance of upholding the rule of law in China, oppression and human rights abuses have apparently increased to an unprecedented level. The spouse of a lawyer who was arrested in 2015 told the network that she has been denied access to her husband and that it is unknown whether he is still alive.

- [Japan, China set to work out joint development projects](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [N. Korea provides little new info on Japanese abductees: source](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Plans underway for Kono to visit Central, South America](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Japanese former residents of Russian-controlled isles return to visit ancestors' graves](#) (The Japan Times)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 20, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 21, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 22, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

- [196th Diet session focuses more on scandals than North Korea issues](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Passage rate of government-sponsored bills marks 92%](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Diet session mired by scandals, arrogance lacked in-depth debate on policy](#) (The Mainichi)
- [CCS Suga interviewed on his relations with Abe, North Korea issues, LDP presidential race, more](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Casino-related bills clear Diet](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

<p>OPINION POLLS</p>

- [Cabinet support rate unchanged at 45%, 62% disapprove of casino bill, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [49% of LDP supporters back Abe for next party president, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [73% say North Korean nuclear weapons issue “will not move toward resolution,” Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Nearly two-thirds oppose law authorizing casinos in Japan, Kyodo News poll](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe’s support drops 7 points to 45% over casino law, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

<p>SOCIETY</p>

Seeking inclusive society two years after massacre at facility for disabled

Saturday’s “NHK Special” took up the fatal stabbing rampage that occurred two years ago at a residential facility for people with intellectual disabilities in Sagamihara, Kanagawa, leaving 19 people dead and 27 others injured. The incident sent shock waves through Japanese society because the perpetrator, a former employee of the facility, stated that he committed the crime based on his belief that people with disabilities who are unable to communicate create misfortune for society. The program highlighted the efforts by families of people with intellectual disabilities and students studying psychology to seek an inclusive society.

Experts discuss ways to deal with major natural disasters

Former Minister for Internal Affairs Hiroya Masuda and five scholars on politics, economics, engineering, and meteorology discussed how to prepare for and respond to major natural disasters. The torrential rains in western Japan earlier this month claimed more than 220 lives. There are still about 4,400 people in 13 prefectures who are unable to return to their homes, including those staying in temporary shelters such as school gymnasiums, after floods and landslides destroyed or damaged more than 38,000 homes across Japan.

- [Ruling ordering mother to return son to father in U.S. finalized](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ratio of working moms in Japan tops 70% for first time](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan trails Hong Kong in latest life expectancy rankings](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [Deployment of two Aegis Ashore systems estimated to cost over 600 billion yen](#) (Sankei)
- [Aegis Ashore systems offer operational merits despite high cost](#) (Sankei)
- [Deployment of two Aegis batteries projected to cost 250 billion yen, up 30% from initial estimate](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan's defense minister insists Osprey deployment is safe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [SDF eyes 10,000-strong deployment to Okinawa](#) (Akahata)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Masatoshi Onaga officially declares candidacy for Naha mayoral race](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Okinawa elections scheduled for later this year](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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